

in determining the value of property to be transferred by the Port of New Orleans to the Corps to complete the project. Notably, I understand that the Corps is also acquiring nearby property from another landowner for this project and that the Corps is employing a replacement cost methodology to determine the value of this nearby property. Therefore, I believe that an equitable solution to determining the value of the Port's property requires a valuation in the same manner as that employed for the nearby property.

Additionally, the Conference Report addresses the Aloha-Rigolette Project. I thank the Conferees for providing \$581,000 for this project. Although not included, I also thank the Conferees for considering my request for bill and report language that would authorize full federal responsibility for project costs in excess of what was anticipated in the Project Cooperation Agreement issued in 1994 in connection with the Bayou Darrow Floodgate portion of the project. I sought this language at the request of the local project sponsor, the Town of Colfax. Mayor Connie Youngblood of Colfax informed me that the Corps negotiated a no-cost termination with the project contractor without consulting the Town and is now expecting the Town to cost-share the additional costs that have resulted. Because the Town of Colfax is a very small rural community and unable to pay the unanticipated additional costs which it did not consent to, I remain very concerned about this matter. Accordingly, I ask the Corps to work with the Town of Colfax to resolve this matter so that the project can be completed in a timely manner.

In closing, I again thank the Conferees for their work on the FY 2000 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill and the attached Conference Report.

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I congratulate my respective colleagues on both sides of the aisle for successfully completing work on this important spending bill. I regret that I was not able to be here to vote on the final Energy and Water conference report for fiscal year 2000.

The conferees deserve credit for their notable efforts in forging this conference agreement and continuing funding for the Department of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and other critical energy programs important to our nation. I am disappointed to say that, just as this final report ensures that necessary functions and programs of the Federal Government are funded, the practice of pork-barrel spending also continues.

When the Senate passed its version of the energy and water appropriation bill just 2 months ago, I found \$531 million in low-priority, unnecessary, and wasteful spending. While a half a billion dollars is an incredible amount of

pork, it is remarkable that this final conference report has been fattened up with an additional \$200 million in pork barrel projects.

A lot of this pork is concentrated in sections of the bill detailing projects to be funded by the Army Corps of Engineers. While I am certainly supportive of our water infrastructure and civil works programs, I am appalled at the process by which the conferees have directed money in these accounts. A majority of the projects do not appear to be funded based on a competitive or merit-based review, but instead funding is clearly directed toward projects which are not requested in the budget and more closely resemble special interest projects.

We sought to curb Federal spending and reduce our tremendous deficit by passing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. However, because we now enjoy a robust economy and balanced budget, we have detracted from our important goal of spending tax-payer's hard-earned dollars prudently.

A clear example of this fiscal irresponsibility is exemplified by the "emergency spending" bills we have enacted over the past two years. Why did we have to pass these supplemental appropriations bills? Because those areas of the country which are not the recipients of these special interest earmarks are suffering because there is not a realistic chance to compete for federal funding through established normal procedures and guidelines when budgetary spending is based more on parochial actions.

Over the years, I have reported to the American taxpayers the pork-barrel spending that continues through our annual appropriations process. I believe we owe it to the American public to report how we spend their taxpayer dollars. Sadly, the taxpayers will have to shoulder the burden of financing pork barrel projects to the tune of \$759 million included in this energy and water spending measure.

I will not waste the time of the Senate going over each and every earmark. I have compiled a list of the numerous add-ons, earmarks, and special exemptions in this conference report. Due to its length, the list I compiled of objectionable provisions included in this conference report cannot be printed in the RECORD. This list will be available on my Senate webpage. •

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:17 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:14 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OF BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as the cochair of the House-Senate Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the Helsinki Commission, I had the privilege in July to go to St. Petersburg, Russia, to participate, with other Senators, in the annual meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

During the proceedings, our 17-member congressional delegation heard a very powerful speech by Mr. Anatoly Lebedko, who is a leader of the opposition party in Belarus. He is a very strong force for democracy in Belarus. He is here with us today. He is often faced with overwhelming opposition. Yet he has led the fight for the kind of principles on which our own Nation was founded.

RECESS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 3 minutes to greet Mr. Lebedko, Parliamentarian from Belarus.

There being no objection, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:18 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCain) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 3, as follows: